

**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting - V2
Tuesday, 29th April 2014 held in the Burgh Halls**

Present: Chair – Bruce McCallum (BM), Lyn Aitken (LA), Aileen Boyle (AB), Clive Dyson (CD), Brenda Galloway (BG), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Fiona Low (FL), David Tait (DT), Mike Vickers (MV) Police Scotland – Peter Robertson (PR) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Ron Smith (RS), Jack Thompson (JT), Verena Throp (VT), Debbie Day (DD), Councillor Tom Conn, Councillor Martyn Day, Councillor Tom Kerr.

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Tuesday, 25th March 2015.

The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.

2. Review of Actions from the March meeting.

Action No.	Details of Action	Status
0114/008	E-mail addresses: all members have an e-mail address. For some the address is receive only (message forwarded to home e-mail address), others have opted for a send and receive e-mail.	Completed
0214/01	Christmas tree illumination project. No report.	Carry forward
0214/08	Bands for Advent Fayre	Completed but awaiting cheque clearance
0314/01&02	School numbers for planning purposes and implications of Winchburgh and Westfield developments	Carry forward Action FL/JK
0314/03	Sale of WLC land in Linlithgow. The reply from Lorraine McGrorty states that Jack Orr has confirmed that there is no legal obligation on the council to provide advance notification to community councils when surplus property is to be marketed for sale or for lease. He has advised that since the establishment of West Lothian Council in 1996, and during his time before that in Lothian Regional Council since 1980, it has never been custom or practice to do this.	Forward to the 3 councillors to attempt to change current practice Action JK
0314/04	Cala Homes. Cala confirmed in a meeting with the planning forum that few written observations were received at the consultation session (approximately 10). However, as a result of the consultation some changes to layout have been made although the proposed junction layout with the Blackness Road has been retained.	Completed
0314/05	Planning Forum meeting dates and minutes at http://linlithgowplanningforum.wordpress.com/meetings-and-events/	Completed

0314/06	Linlithgow Health Centre. Carol Bebbington, the Primary Care Manager, West Lothian CHCP, stated that the existing premises of Linlithgow Health Centre were developed from the old Cooperative some 25 years ago and is under pressure in terms of capacity and in need of upgrading. The existing premises are not suitable for extension as they are land locked and previous surveys have indicated that the building will not support a third floor. From a review, Linlithgow Health Centre has emerged as a priority for re-provision. This will be progressed through the NHS approval processes for premises development and whilst it is not possible to provide a firm timescale for this at present discussions with West Lothian Council have been initiated to find a suitable site.	Health & Social Care Group to take forward
0314/07	Review of the West Lothian Scheme for Community Councils - feedback required to WLC by 16 May. See minute 5 below	MV to lead on this
0314/08	Monthly LLBCC meetings – reports from Working Groups to be provided to secretary@llbcc.org.uk by Wednesday 20 May. AB to engage with councillors about the provision of reports for monthly meetings AB to provide draft agendas for 2014 meetings	All by 20 May 2014 c/f - AB

3. Reports from Groups Development & Planning

JK gave a brief report of the work of the Planning Group in two parts:

- a) Monitoring the weekly planning list and selection of those planning applications which deserve discussion at the Community Council meeting. During the past year, five planning applications have warranted examination and action and two applications have necessitated presentations to West Lothian Council planning committee.
- b) Developing a strategy for the examination of the Main Issues Report when it is published in May 2014. This has resulted in the development of a set of guidelines which outline a strategic proposal for the development of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge. JK stated that the Linlithgow area local plan (1994) established the principle that Linlithgow had reached its environmental capacity and that a policy of restraint should be enforced. This policy has carried forward into subsequent plans and is embodied in the current 2009 plan. The policy of restraint does not prohibit housing development within the settlement envelope allowing the development of in excess of 460 dwellings since 1997 including 56 given planning permission during the last two years.

JK stated that in the opinion of the planning group, the current Local Development Plan for Linlithgow is not fit for purpose as it contains no plan for infrastructure improvements whilst permitting significant residential development.

Health & Social Provision

LA gave a brief outline of the Public Partnership Forum for Health and Care meetings at which it was announced that:

- St John's is to utilise seven-day working for a number of procedures,
- significant savings have been made through the use of generic medicines

- gluten-free food is available on prescription
- GPs are encouraged to examine repeat prescriptions to reduce wastage through the prescription of unused medicine
- plans to integrate health and social care has been put back until June 2015

In addition VT has proposed a meeting with Julie Cassidy, Public Involvement Coordinator of West Lothian CHCP to discuss alcohol and substance abuse.

Housing & Social Housing

IK reported on the work of the housing group which has investigated the housing stock in Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge in the context of affordable, private rented and social rented housing. Information in the current Linlithgow Gazette indicates that West Lothian Council have reviewed the distribution of council housing to include a 30 house development proposed for land at Mill Road to be completed by 2017. The only caveat on this development is whether there is sufficient education capacity at primary and secondary level. This raises again the issue of reserved places for Westfield and Winchburgh as 0314/01&02 above.

It was agreed that IK prepare an article for the Black Bitch based upon the housing statistics.

Action IK (04/001)

Education & Youth

FL spoke to her paper included in the AGM report outlining the success in placing 12 vulnerable students in work experience locally. FL acknowledged the help of the Linlithgow Business Association in this endeavour. FL described her contribution to Interact in which S3 students at the Academy will take forward the "junior Rotary" initiative, funded by the Grange Rotary group.

Communications

DT outlined the objective of having a Community Council contribution to every edition of the Black Bitch magazine to raise awareness of the Community Council's work in Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge. Further, it is proposed that the Community Council contribute with other groups to the costs involved in subscribing to a survey facility. The cost to the Community Council would be £25. CD proposed and JK seconded the initiative which was unanimously approved. A questionnaire prepared by the planning forum is in an advanced stage of preparation. CD stated that he is prepared to continue website training for the next few weeks. MV will take over responsibility for the website after CD leaves.

Events

Mindful of the approaching date for the submission of applications for road closures for the Advent Fayre, the events group is to meet during week commencing 5th May 2014. BM informed the meeting that the Gala Day Committee had invited the Community Council to donate Cups and/or Shields to replace the old awards which are to be lodged in Annette House. IK proposed a donation of up to £240 to purchase the awards which was seconded by FL and unanimously agreed.

4. Police Report

Constable Peter Robertson reported that there had been six break-ins during the Easter holiday period when people were away from their house. Five were in the Springfield area. He appealed to Linlithgow residents to report anything suspicious. He made the plea that it is better to find that nothing is amiss rather than find later that a crime has been committed. DT offered to print an article in the Black Bitch magazine. PR also reported on the continuance of the bogus workmen problem and the prevalence of telephone scams. PR is to visit the Linlithgow primary schools to introduce himself. PR to investigate the reports of vandalism in the Peel.

5. Review of the West Lothian Scheme for Community Councils

The Community Council has been invited to comment on the scheme for the establishment of the Community Council in West Lothian. Feedback is required by 15 May. MV outlined the discussions that had taken place at the Association of Community Councils meeting. Items which were discussed were those involving roles and responsibilities and the levels of Community Council engagement. The requirement for consultation in planning and licensing matters could be extended to other matters. It is the aim of West Lothian Council to present a model constitution which is likely to be acceptable to all community councils. It was proposed that youth membership should revert from 14---16 years back to 14---18 years. It was also suggested that there could be a business membership although what constituted business membership was not defined. The number of community councils in West Lothian is to increase from 40 to 41. Currently Bridgend is not operative and should local people request to be represented by a community council then Bridgend could be incorporated into the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council. **Action: C/f MV – 0314/007 ‘**

6. Community Empowerment Bill

A brief debate on the Community Empowerment Bill included a discussion on the ability of the Community Council to take over assets, embark on improvement projects, provide services and generally engage in “bottom-up” control of the community. DT highlighted the work of the CoSLA Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy and recommended the reading of the Commission’s interim report. DT recommended that the Community Council produce position statements to accompany comments on the Community Empowerment Bill.

7. Any other business

CD introduced Gill Fawcitt, chairperson of the Linlithgow Community Development Trust. Jill addressed the Community Council stating that it was her intention to work in partnership with groups such as the Community Council and investigate joint projects of mutual benefit. She described the Kettlistoun project and its current stage in the asset transfer/business plan process. CD proposed that Gill become an Associate Member of the Community Council. This proposal was seconded by FL and unanimously agreed. JF advised that she would need to discuss this with the Linlithgow Community Development Trust before confirming.

IK stated that for the second time the "Yes" campaign had arranged a public meeting in Linlithgow for the same date and time of the Community Council meeting. He is concerned about the clash with the dates for the Community Council meetings. DT agreed to inform the local organisers of the Yes campaign of the Community Council meeting dates.

LA reported on the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership Audit held on Thursday, 24 April. In brief the conclusions of the audit in Linlithgow were:

- the discussion on access to services highlighted that a number of key services were unavailable in Linlithgow notably registrar services for births, deaths and marriages and a job centre.
- There should be less reliance on communication through websites.
- On the positive side it was recognised that hospital discharge procedures requiring interaction between health and care organisations worked well.

8. Close

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.15.

Aileen Boyle
30th April 2014
Secretary

Note 1:

The dates of meetings for 2014/15 are:

2014

27th May
24th June
26th August
23rd September
28th October
25th November
16th December

2015

27th January
24th February
24th March
28th April - AGM
26th May
23rd June
25th August

2015

22nd September
27th October
24th November
15th December